

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100243  
ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 100243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CONCORDE

FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF  
A MAY 2 INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BY DAVID DIMBLEBY,  
BBC-TV; CARL WEISS,ZDF; AND EMMANUEL DE LA TAILLE, TFI.

'QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, BEFORE WE GO FARTHER, I FEEL  
OBLIGED TO ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT THE CONCORDE. YOU  
KNOW THAT IT HAS BEEN LOUDLY MISINTERPRETED IN EUROPE  
AND THE PROBLEM OF CONCORDE IS SPREADING ANTI-AMERICAN  
FEELINGS IN EUROPE, ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE, AS YOU KNOW.

"WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE POLITICAL NOISE OF CONCORDE  
AND THE WAY IT COULD BE SOLVED?

"THE PRESIDENT: MY POSITION IS VERY CLEAR. I SUPPORT  
THE DECISION MADE BY PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS ADMINISTRA-  
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TION IN AUTHORIZING A 16-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD FOR THE  
CONCORDE, BOTH AT DULLES AIRPORT, WHICH THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT CONTROLS, AND ALSO AT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY  
AIRPORT, WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN  
NEW YORK.

"AS YOU KNOW, WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS HAD THAT

AUTHORITY, THE TEST FLIGHTS ARE NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY CONCORDE AT DULLES, NEAR WASHINGTON. I HAVE NO AUTHORITY AT ALL OVER THE NEW YORK PORT OFFICIALS --

"QUESTION: THE PEOPLE IN NEW YORK DON'T KNOW THAT, ARE FAMILIAR WITH THAT.

"THE PRESIDENT: I KNOW. THAT IS THE CRUX OF THE MIS-UNDERSTANDING, BECAUSE IN OUR OWN NATION THE EXECUTIVE LEADERS, EVEN THE PRESIDENT, HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO AUTHORITY OVER THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OR THE COURTS, AND TO TRY TO EXERT THAT AUTHORITY WOULD BE A VERY SERIOUS BREACH OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES.

"WE ALSO HAVE A SIMILAR CONSTITUTIONAL DIVISION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS -- THAT IS, THE STATE AND THE CITY ON THE ONE HAND COMPARED TO THE PRESIDENT. I HAVE NO AUTHORITY AT ALL TO TELL THE GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK STATE OR THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY OR THE NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY WHAT TO DO WITH THE CONCORDE. WE HAVE MADE OUR FEDERAL POSITION CLEAR, THAT WE PREFER TO SEE JOHN F. KENNEDY AIRPORT OPEN TO THE CONCORDE FOR THE 16-MONTH PERIOD."  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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